

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12
NEA-10 DHA-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /106 W
-----022105 117770 /44

O R 021913Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5595
INFO USUN NEW YORK 4286

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: UN, SHUM
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: AGENDA ITEM -- VIOLATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND AGENDA ITEM 10 --
THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

REF: A. GENEVA 1484, B. STATE 44702

1. SUMMARY. THE COMMISSION IS NOW DEVOTING FULL
TIME ATTENTION TO SIMULTANEOUS CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 6,
SOUTHERN AFRICA AND AGENDA ITEM 10, SELF-DETERMINATION.
FOLLOWING INTERMITTENT CONSIDERATION OF THESE TWO
ITEMS DURING THE DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION IN UGANDA.
THE RESOLUTION ON THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING
GROUP OF EXPERTS (REF B) HAS BEEN FORMALLY TABLED IN A
SLIGHTLY REVISED FORM. REVISIONS FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL. WE
HAVE NOT YET SEEN RESOLUTIONS PERTAINING TO ADVERSE
CONSEQUENCES AND TO SELF-DETERMINATION, BUT EXPECT THAT
THEY WILL BE TABLED SHORTLY. TO DATE THE DEBATE HAS
CONTAINED NO SURPRISES. USDEL IS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK ON
SOUTHERN AFRICA LATER THIS WEEK. END SUMMARY.

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2. AGENDA ITEM 6, VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA, WAS INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 28 BY THE
DELEGATE OF SENEGAL (M'BAYE), WHO BEGAN HIS INTRODUCTION
WITH CRITICISM OF WESTERN POWERS SAYING THAT THEIR
ENDLESS "YES--BUTS" ENCOURAGE CONTINUATION OF THE
REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND PRETORIA. HE ALSO
SINGLED OUT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AS

ONE WHOSE CONDEMNATIONS OF THE RACIST REGIMES WERE PRONOUNCED WITHOUT CONVICTION. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON APARTHEID (HARRIMAN OF NIGERIA) ADDRESSED THE COMMISSION TUESDAY, MARCH 1, DELIVERING A RELATIVELY MODERATE STATEMENT. HARRIMAN CONCENTRATED ON THE PROBLEM OF ARRESTS AND IMPRISONMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST THE CRIME OF APARTHEID. HE NOTED THAT MANY COUNTRIES APPEAR TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT RACIST REGIMES AND CITED THE PRESENCE OF ISRAELI GUNS, FRENCH HELICOPTERS, AND U.S. TROOP CARRIERS AS PROOF. HARRIMAN ALSO CRITICIZED FOREIGN INVESTMENT, BANKING INSTITUTIONS AND MISUSE OF THE VETO POWER BY SOME COUNTRIES AS PREVENTING EFFECTIVE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON APARTHEID CONSIDERED THAT 1977 MUST BE A YEAR FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID, BUT DID NOT SUGGEST TO THE COMMISSION ANY SPECIFIC STEPS IT SHOULD TAKE.

3. AS REPORTED REF A, USDEL MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT ON FEBRUARY 28 FOLLOWING INTRODUCTION BY M'BAYE AND AFTER STATEMENTS BY CUBA (WHICH REITERATED MUCH OF THE MATERIAL IN THE KHALIFA REPORT), AUSTRIA, CANADA, FRG, AND THE OBSERVER DELEGATE OF SWAPO.

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NEA-10 DHA-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /106 W
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4. AT THE A.M. SESSION MARCH 2 DEBAT CENTERED ON AGENDA ITEM 10, SELF-DETERMINATION, WITH MOST

SPEAKERS CONCENTRATING ON SOUTHERN AFRICA AND PALESTINE. THE USSR (ZORIN) COMMENTED ON THE ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY THE USSR AND CUBA TO ANGOLA IN ITS FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE AND THEN EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN SOUTH KOREA. ZORIN STATED THAT THAT COUNTRY IS UNDERGOING A REIGN OF TERROR WHICH INCLUDES COUNTLESS ARRESTS AND TORTURE. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST SOLVE THE QUESTION OF WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA AS A MEANS OF IMPROVING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.

5. IN A BRIEF INTERVENTION, THE USREP (LOWENSTEIN) NOTED THAT WE ARE ENTERING A COMPLEX PERIOD AND THAT COLONIALISM AND FOREIGN OCCUPATION ARE NOT THE ONLY FORMS OF INFRINGEMENT ON THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. AN ESSENTIAL FACTOR IN THE FULL EXERCISE OF SELF-DETERMINATION IS THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO DETERMINE FREELY THE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT UNDER WHICH THEY LIVE. RECALLING ZORIN'S EARLIER MENTION OF U.S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TROOPS IN KOREA, LOWENSTEIN NOTED THAT WITH REGARD TO U.S. TROOPS IN KOREA AS WELL IN REGARD TO SOVIET TROOPS IN EASTERN EUROPE ARGUMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TWO WAYS. FOREIGN TROOPS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED AS BOTH AN OBSTACLE TO AND A MEANS OF ENSURING SELF-DETERMINATION. LOWENSTEIN THEN TURNED TO THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, NOTING THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA, A TERRITORY WHICH IS AN INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY, ARE ENTITLED TO FREEDOM FROM FOREIGN OCCUPATION AND THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. HE ALSO NOTED THAT ONE FOCUS FOR IMMEDIATE HRC ACTION SHOULD BE SUPPORT FOR FREE ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA. LOWENSTEIN ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO THE PRESENCE OF TWO SWAPO LEADERS IN THE HALL WHO HAVE BEEN PRESENTING THE NAMIBIA CASE IN EUROPEAN CAPITALS FOR THE PAST WEEKS AND WHO WILL BE SHORTLY RETURNING TO NAMIBIA.

6. THE A.M. SESSION ENDED WITH A STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER DELEGATE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA WHO, IN TAKING THE FLOOR FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE COMMISSION, MADE A LENGTHY STATEMENT ON VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH KOREA AND ALLEGED THAT ALL THESE VIOLATIONS ARE THE RESULT OF OCCUPATION BY U.S. TROOPS.

7. THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON

SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS TABLED MARCH 2. REVISIONS FOLLOW
BY SEPTTEL. THE QUESTION OF ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR
THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IS
ALSO A SUB-ITEM UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6 BUT NO STATEMENTS,
EXCEPT THAT BY THE CUBAN, HAVE BEEN DEVOTED TO THIS
SUBJECT SO FAR. DEPT. WILL RECALL THAT THIS IS THE
SUBJECT WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO INCLUDE A STUDY BY THE
HRC OF THE USE OF THE VETO WITH RESPECT TO SOUTHERN
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AFRICA. WE WILL REPORT ANY DISCUSSION ON THE USE OF
THE VETO AND TRY TO DETERMINE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
WHETHER THERE ARE ANY NEW RESOLUTIONS ON THE SUBJECT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, INVESTIGATIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA01536
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770072-0284
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703102/aaaadlzu.tel
Line Count: 188
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GENEVA 1484, 77 STATE 44702
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2942893
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: AGENDA ITEM -- VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND AGENDA ITEM 10 -- THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION
TAGS: SHUM, SF, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/554c88ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009